

# **Federal Geographic Data Committee**

## **2014 Guidance to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee**

**March 2014**

This paper provides guidance to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and identifies specific issues on which the FGDC requests advice and recommendations from the NGAC during 2014. This guidance is the charge to the NGAC from the FGDC and the Department of the Interior.

The NGAC is an important component for ensuring the success of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and achieving the goals of the FGDC and the Administration. This set of issues for review and consideration by the NGAC has been identified through coordination with FGDC leadership, FGDC agencies, and NGAC leadership and members. The goal in providing this guidance is to establish a general framework that will allow the NGAC to focus its efforts on high priority issues related to the leadership and management of Federal and national geospatial programs, and provide the NGAC with the flexibility to organize, prioritize, and refine the tasks it is being called upon to address.

Key issues for NGAC review during 2014 include the topics listed below. We expect to refine and prioritize this list of issues based upon discussion with the NGAC and FGDC leadership.

### **1. FGDC Initiatives – Ongoing Input and Comment**

The FGDC will seek continuing feedback and advice from the NGAC on critical ongoing FGDC initiatives, including the implementation of the NSDI Strategic Plan, and the OMB Circular A-16/Portfolio Management Implementation Plan, and the Geospatial Platform Shared Service. These initiatives were also addressed in the recent report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), “OMB and Agencies Need to Make Coordination a Priority to Reduce Duplication” (GAO-13-94). GAO is initiating a follow-up review of Federal geospatial programs in 2014, and the FGDC may again seek NGAC’s input as it responds to the new GAO inquiry. The NGAC study questions related to the ongoing FGDC initiatives are as follows:

#### **NSDI Strategic Plan**

In 2013, the NGAC provided extensive input into the development of the 2014-2016 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Strategic Plan. The NGAC’s input was critical to shaping the scope and direction of the plan. The plan includes a set of goals and objectives for the Federal government’s role in the continued and sustainable development of the NSDI. The FGDC will continue to engage with the NGAC during the implementation of the strategic plan, seeking ongoing feedback as follows:

- Provide continuing input on the implementation of the NSDI strategic plan. Provide feedback and comment on specific strategic goals and objectives as needed.

#### **A-16/Portfolio Management Implementation Plan**

The NGAC has provided ongoing advice and recommendations related to the development and implementation of the OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance. The FGDC has developed a A-16/Portfolio Management Implementation Plan that describes the processes and actions necessary to implement a portfolio management approach to geospatial data assets within the

Federal government, and in collaboration with partners. The FGDC will continue to engage and seek feedback from the NGAC as the plan moves into the implementation phase.

- Provide feedback and comment on the implementation strategies and approaches for the A-16/ Portfolio Management Implementation Plan as needed.

### **Geospatial Platform Shared Service**

The NGAC has provided ongoing input that has had significant impact on shaping the conceptualization and development of the Geospatial Platform initiative. As the Platform continues in the implementation phase, the FGDC requests continuing advice and feedback from the NGAC on opportunities to facilitate interagency and intergovernmental collaboration and partnerships, including the following topics:

- Provide advice and recommendations on ways to expand and enhance the Geospatial Platform for broader use and value by the non-Federal community.
- Provide feedback on Geospatial Platform technical, administrative, and governance-related topics as implementation progresses.

## **2. NGAC Subcommittee Activities**

The NGAC has established a set of subcommittees to address ongoing issues and previous guidance from the FGDC. The study questions related to the ongoing NGAC subcommittee activities are as follows:

### **Landsat Advisory Group**

The NGAC Landsat Advisory Group (LAG) will provide advice to the Federal Government, through the NGAC, on the requirements, objectives and actions of the Landsat Program as they apply to ongoing delivery of societal benefits for the Nation and the global Earth observation community. The LAG is requested to provide advice and recommendations on Landsat-related issues for consideration by the NGAC, including the following:

- Review and update the 2012 LAG paper, “The Value Proposition for Ten Landsat Applications.” The 2012 paper documented an estimated \$178M to \$235M in annual cost savings experienced by federal and state government agencies within ten categories of Landsat data use. Since the 2012 cost savings estimates were compiled by the LAG, the USGS has gathered additional information through a Landsat user survey, a preliminary collection of Landsat-user case studies, and a pilot project on remote sensing user requirements. The USGS will share this information with the LAG to assist in updating the examples used in the 2012 paper, refining the list of user applications within and beyond government agencies, and enhancing the Landsat value summary.

### **Geolocation Privacy**

The issue of geolocation privacy is an area of continuing importance to the FGDC and the organizations represented on the NGAC. The FGDC will continue to collaborate with the NGAC to review and develop common approaches to the issue of geolocation privacy, including the following:

- Inventory communities/sectors with an interest in geolocation privacy issues (e.g., State and local government organizations) to identify emerging approaches and potential best practices to help address geolocation privacy concerns, including:
  - Administrative policies and guidelines
  - Technical approaches and solutions
  - Legislative/statutory changes

### **Geospatial Education and Workforce Development**

The FGDC seeks continuing feedback and input from the NGAC on the issues of geospatial education and workforce development, including the following:

- Identify opportunities to leverage recent professional GIS certification initiatives by the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.
- Provide input as needed on the implementation of the Administration's STEM strategic plan (government-wide, or within specific agencies, as appropriate).

### **National Address Database**

The NGAC has provided very helpful advice and recommendations on the potential development of a National Address Database, including a 2012 white paper, "The Need for a National Address Database." The NGAC is requested to provide ongoing input on this effort, including the following:

- Identify compelling use cases demonstrating the value and utility of a National Address Database.
- Describe the potential relationship between a National Address Database and National Parcel Data and identify possible opportunities to coordinate and leverage the two efforts.

## **3. Additional Topics for Consideration**

In addition to the ongoing FGDC initiatives and NGAC subcommittee activities, the FGDC has identified a set of additional topics for possible consideration by the NGAC:

### **NSDI Sustainability and Continuity**

- Identify potential strategies and approaches to enhance the sustainability and continuity of NSDI governance, operations, and partnerships.

### **Tribal Geospatial Issues**

- Potential study issues include strategies for enhanced geospatial partnerships with Tribes.

### **Administration/Departmental Priorities**

- Provide recommendations and perspectives of the geospatial community toward Administration/Departmental priorities, as needed. For example, they may provide input and advice on Interior's priority objective for "building a landscape level understanding" to support the mission of resource management and conservation.

The FGDC looks forward to an ongoing dialogue with the NGAC membership to refine these issues and develop a Plan of Action to address these topics, including the establishment (or modification) of subcommittees or work groups. The FGDC will continue to coordinate with the NGAC Chair, Vice Chair, and membership on the planning and implementation of the NGAC's activities.